

# US 93 FISH AND WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

## 11. Jocko River Fish & Wildlife Crossing Arlee - Ravalli Segment

Historically this area has been heavily used as a fish and wildlife corridor. There is excellent potential for restoration and enhancement as a wildlife corridor by expanding the bridge opening and increasing riparian cover. Black bear have been recently seen in this area. Anticipated use by: bear, elk, deer, coyotes, bobcats, bald eagles, bull trout and other fish.

### Design Recommendations

Recommended crossing type: *Open span or multi-span bridge*

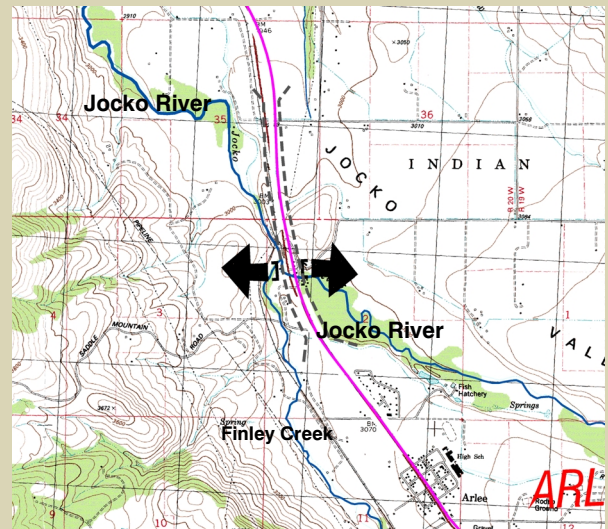
Length and height of bridge to span entire riparian zone.  
Approximate dimensions: 300' to 400' span,  
12' minimum height.

### Notes:

Add 8' page wire fencing along both sides of road and along river bank. Provide cattle guards for connecting roads and driveways. Existing commercial development and homes in low lying areas near the river would be relocated. Restore habitat area per plans by the Tribes.

### Criteria for locations of crossings:

1. **Winter tracking** - NA.
2. **Summer Game Trails** - NA.
3. **Road Kill Data** - Tribal data from 1/95-10/98 combined with MDT data from 12/97-1/00 indicated 1 kill in this area.
4. **Habitat** - Excellent riparian habitat. This crossing has been historically important to wildlife and has potential to become even more important when the riparian corridor upstream and downstream is restored as wildlife habitat by the Salish & Kootenai Tribes, CSKT Wetland/Riparian & Bull Trout Restoration Plan (CSKT, 2000).
5. **Engineering Practicality** - The existing bridge is located at the bottom of a hollow. The topography will easily accommodate a bridge of substantially greater height and breadth.



## US 93 DESIGN DISCUSSIONS

Project Committee:

Evarto to Polson, Montana

Montana Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

The Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation

Prime Consultant: Skillings-Connolly, Inc. - Consulting Engineers

